



Ashburton Town Council

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.45PM IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL**

Present: Cllrs Hitchcock, chairman
Cllrs Ashford, Giles, Distin, Parker-Khan, Daw, Slater, Brewer, Dennis

In attendance: The clerk and deputy town clerk

050/16GP Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Nutley. (annual leave), Cllr Baker (previous engagement) and Cllr Irens (unwell). Acceptance of this apology was proposed by Cllr Giles seconded by Cllr Parker-Khan. Carried

051/16GP Public comments/statements. The public may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes on items on the agenda or items that may be considered for a future agenda at the chairman's discretion.

No members of the public present.

052/16GP Declarations of interest. To receive any declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

053/16GP Minutes of the previous meeting of 22 June 2016

These were signed by the chairman as a true record.

054/16GP Matters arising from the previous minutes of 22 June 2016

There were no matters raised.

055/16GP General discussion regarding burials at St Andrew's Churchyard

The clerk read an email from Cllr Nutley, which stated:

Although I requested this to be discussed at the General Purpose meeting, I do apologise for not being able to attend.

As I mentioned at the last full council meeting, we were told that St Andrew's Church is now closed for burials with the exception of cremation burials.

I know this has been discussed in the past but now feel we have to put pressure on the authorities of either Teignbridge District Council or Devon County Council and possibly

the Church of England Diocese of Exeter to address this situation for the sake of our residents living in the parish of Ashburton.

I think it is unjust and upsetting for the families of those born and bred in Ashburton and for many of us that love and have now lived in Ashburton for many years in having to be buried in other towns and villages.

I think we now need to arrange meetings with the above mentioned in order to resolve this problem as soon as possible. If you feel it requires another sub-committee to look into this then I would wish to serve on the committee.

Cllr Brewer stated that he believed the council would be on a hiding to nothing. It was not possible to keep burying people in the traditional way and the majority will now go for cremation. We should ask Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council about this.

Cllr Distin stated that Buckfastleigh has another 30 years left in its churchyard.

Cllr Dennis entered the meeting at 7.35pm.

Cllr Parker Khan asked whether it was the town council's duty to provide land. The clerk stated that he believed when a churchyard closed it was passed to the town council who could then pass it to district who could then pass it to county.

Councillors discussed in detail, including the possibility of land at Kenwyn or Longstone Cross. The possibility of the town council sourcing some land. Possible plots of land owned by Glendinnings.

The clerk stated that he believed that in the first instance he should write to the various authorities asking them to find land and once responses are received the town council can visit this again.

Clerk to write to DCC, TDC, and the Diocese requesting they find land

056/16GP General discussion regarding apprenticeships for Ashburton residents

Cllr Giles stated she had received four emails from local companies stating they had contacted South Dartmoor Academy with details of apprenticeships available but had had no reply. Cllr Brewer stated that the school is not an organisation that finds people jobs. There is an organisation called Careers South West that does this and employers should get in touch with them. Cllr Parker-Khan stated that there are careers advisers in the school.

The clerk said that the school should have replied out of courtesy and he would write to them asking why they had not replied. He could also publicise where employers should place any advertisements. Cllr Parker-Khan stated that when the school has a careers' fair, employers could be invited saying what is currently available.

057/16GP Hospital consultation – proposed letter from Ashburton Town Council

The clerk had forwarded a letter requesting that NHS England stop the consultation as it did not meet the 11 principles of holding a consultation. It was proposed by Cllr Parker-Khan and seconded by Cllr Brewer that the clerk responds that the town council are in agreement with sending the letter.

058/16GP Gas main replacement – general discussion

The clerk had forwarded a copy of an email received with details of proposed gas main replacement. He was meeting with a representative on 4 October to discuss.

059/16GP Dartmoor community paths scheme

The clerk gave details of the scheme. Councillors had been forwarded the details if anyone wished anyone wished any further information to contact the clerk's office.

060/16GP Proposal to form cluster group Buckfastleigh and surround parishes

Councillors discussed in detail and the clerk was requested to respond that the town council is interested and that they would like to attend the first meeting.

061/16GP Correspondence

- Off-street parking order – temporary prohibition of traffic Chuley Road and Chuley Hill. The clerk stated that this is currently in progress. He also gave details of a proposal from Teignbridge District Council to suspend charging in the car parks in the winter charging period from 1 November until Maundy Thursday. Councillors discussed in detail and requested that this only apply to Saturdays and Sundays as it is difficult now to park and would be even worse when free.

062/16GP Matters raised by councillors for information only or possible inclusion on a future agenda.

- Now that DCC have taken on responsibility for the recreation ground wall. The town council needs to write stating that much of the wall is potentially dangerous and needs repair.
- The trees at Mill Meadow (where the town council cuts the grass) need looking at and perhaps the clerk could ask Brian Beasley to take a look at when he is in town.
- Cllr Daw stated he would do a survey of the benches to see what repairs are needed.
- Cllr Dennis stated that there is a lot of rubbish in Bulliver's Way and this is owned by the town council.
- The clerk stated that the dog bin would be sited at Bulliver's Way very soon.
- Cllr Giles stated that the temporary signs removed by Highways had not been replaced at the slip road but the fixed signs still remain and need to be removed.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

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CHAIRMAN

